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IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

P.O. Box 46667

Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

UT-0016

July 11, 2006

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining  
Coal Regulatory Program  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

*Inaug*  
*2/015/0018*  
*Task 2544*

RE: PacifiCorp - "Deer Creek" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision, Mill Fork West Extension Tract, Task ID No. 2544

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining's (UT-DOGM) June 9, 2006, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Mill Fork West Extension Tract, has determined that it proposes to add approximately 213 acres in new Federal lease UTU-84285 to the Deer Creek mine, Utah State permit C/015/018.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18(d)(3) and 746.18(d)(4). Therefore, the proposed Mill Fork West Extension Tract permit revision does constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval. \*

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Mill Fork West Extension Tract, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the June 9, 2006, request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS &amp; MINING



In an electronic transmittal dated June 14, 2006, the U.S. Forest Service stated in its opinion the Mill Fork West Extension Tract permit revision does constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

The Bureau of Land Management did not provide any comments in the thirty day time frame established by the Federal regulations under 30 CFR 944.30, Article VI. D.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,

*Ranvir Singh (acting)*

Ranvir Singh  
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office  
BLM - Price Field Office  
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF  
Denver Field Division